

## **Frequently Asked Questions on FY2013 Public Schools Approved Budget**

March 7, 2012

*The following are questions and answers we have received about the FY2013 Public Schools Budget, set by the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) on March 5, 2012.*

### **Q: How much did general fund revenues increase in this budget?**

A: General fund revenues increased \$55.9 million, or 4.6% in the FY2013 Public School budget.

### **Q: Did JFAC offset the adjustment to salary-based apportionment in FY2013?**

A: JFAC passed a FY2013 Public Schools Budget assuming [Senate Bill 1331](#) passes and goes into effect July 1, 2012. Under SB 1331, the increased adjustments to salary-based apportionment in FY2013 and future years do not take place; therefore, in the approved FY2013 Public Schools Budget there is no additional reduction to salary-based apportionment. The FY 2012 adjustment of 1.67% will remain for FY 2013 and future years.

### **Q: How will the \$2.5 million for IT professionals be distributed?**

A: The state has yet to determine exactly how this funding will be distributed to local school districts and public charter schools; however, we know every district and charter school will receive an amount based on a formula with a minimum put in place to ensure every district receive something.

### **Q: Is the \$2.5 million for IT professionals for all schools or just for the one-third of schools that will receive devices in the first deployment?**

A: The funding is for IT professionals in all schools and districts.

### **Q: Can the \$2.5 million for IT professionals only be spent on staff?**

A: Yes. The state has appropriated other funding for hardware and software. This funding is dedicated to IT staff.

### **Q: If a teacher is at the top of the salary grid and doesn't receive pay-for-performance, will they receive a salary increase?**

A: That will be determined at the local level. The state is not reducing the amount distributed for salary-based apportionment in FY2013. The state is providing increases in the minimum salary, and the state is providing funding for current movement on the salary grid.

### **Q: Did the state fund the two years of experience that were frozen on the salary grid?**

A: No, the state has not restored the two years of experience that was previously frozen on the salary grid. Last year, the state did restore the one year of education that was previously frozen on the salary grid. This year, the state has provided funding for current movement on the salary grid. Right now, state legislators are working to ensure state and public school employees see future pay increases with the revenues they have available before they work to restore what was frozen in previous years.

### **Q: Was additional funding provided for Idaho Digital Learning Academy?**

A: Yes, the Idaho Legislature provided \$1 million in ongoing funding and an additional \$4 million in one-time funding in FY2013 to help the Idaho Digital Learning Academy as it transitions to a self-funded agency. In future years, as the state implements a fractional Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding formula, IDLA's funding will consist of a base amount from the state appropriation and revenues it receives from fractional ADA.

**Q: If a school did not sign up to participate in the first round of deployment of one-to-one laptop devices in Fall 2013, will it be able to sign up to participate in the second round?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Why is the state only paying for dual credit courses for students who meet state graduation requirements early? Can the state open this program up for students who have not yet met graduation requirements?**

A: The Legislature has appropriated nearly \$850,000 for the Dual Credit for Early Completers program for the current fiscal year and upcoming year. Funding is not available at this time to make this program available to more students.

**Q: Was funding provided for an increase in classified staff salaries?**

A: Yes. JFAC approved a 2% increase in the base salary for classified staff.

**Q: Did JFAC increase discretionary funding?**

A: Yes, the appropriation for discretionary funding was increased by \$80 per support unit, approximately 0.4% for FY2013.

**Q: How was teacher compensation increased by 5.8% next school year?**

A: The average teacher will receive a \$2,082 increase in pay next year because the state increased the minimum salary, funded current movement on the salary grid for experience and education, and appropriated \$38.8 million for teachers to earn bonuses through pay-for-performance next year.

**Q: When do the hard-to-fill and leadership components of pay-for-performance go into effect?**

A: In the 2012-2013 school year, local school districts and public charter schools will need to determine which positions they will deem as "hard-to-fill" and which duties they will deem as "leadership." Bonuses will be awarded for these in fiscal year 2014, which is the 2013-2014 school year.

**Q: Have the indexes changed? If so, what is the base salary for fiscal year 2013?**

A: The indexes are very similar to last year: 1.54 for instructional, and 1.82 for administration. The instructional base salary is \$23,123.

**Q: How much funding is appropriated for professional development and in which line items is it found?**

A: Nearly \$4 million has been appropriated for professional development statewide. On the State Department of Education's budget spreadsheet, the funding is found in line item "2(l). Technology" and "2(m). Laptops/Maintenance."

**Q: Will instructional hours be decreased to allow for professional development, per the Technology Task Force Recommendation?**

A: No, this will not happen in FY2013. The state is currently developing a comprehensive, statewide plan for professional development and looking at all options. A detailed plan is now posted online at <http://www.studentscomefirst.org/advancedtechnology.htm>.

**Q: Will the professional development funding be distributed to local school districts? If distributed, how much are districts estimated to receive?**

A: The nearly \$4 million in funding will be used for development and provision of professional development at both the state level and local level to promote the effective use of technology by students, staff and parents, and to integrate technology into public school curricula and instructional methods. The Department is currently developing opportunities that will be made available statewide. Additionally, the Department will be awarding grants of up to \$10,000 to assist school districts in providing professional development opportunities to their personnel, students and parents regarding the integration of technology into teaching and learning. The funds must be used to support the integration of technology into the day-to-day teaching and learning that occurs in each classroom. Districts will be able select a focus area and set outcomes based on the needs they have identified through their planning for the use of classroom technology funds. Districts are encouraged to collaborate and coordinate professional development activities among neighboring districts to maximize opportunities. Applications are available at <http://www.studentscomefirst.org/advancedtechnology.htm> and must be submitted by April 15, 2012. The Department will review the applications and notify districts of awards no later than April 30, 2012.

**Q: What is the state's plan for providing professional development to local schools and districts in the 2012-2013 school year?**

A: The plan for professional development incorporates recommendations from the Technology Task Force and district superintendents from around the state. The focus is on building capacity at both state and local levels to ensure that technology is integrated with effective teaching. The delivery of professional development will be accomplished through a blended model using both face-to-face and digital learning methods. A detailed plan now is posted online at <http://www.studentscomefirst.org/advancedtechnology.htm>.

**Q: How are districts and public charter schools expected to fit in more time for professional development when days have already been cut from the school calendar?**

A: We recognize that there will be many professional development opportunities with limited time to participate in the professional development. Therefore, the professional development plan will include both face-to-face and digital learning methods. Our goal is to use multiple delivery models to help offset some of the time constraints. We also recognize that learning takes place during implementation, and part of our professional development will include the opportunity for on-site follow up that will support the implementation.

**Q: Will the "use-it-or-lose-it" provisions remain in place or are they changing?**

A: The Students Come First laws provided increased flexibility with the "use-it-or-lose-it" provision now and in future years. In FY2012, the flexibility was 7%. In FY2013, it will be 9.5%. In FY2014 and beyond, it will be 11%.

**Q: If there is a surplus at the end of FY2012, will school districts receive a maintenance-of-effort distribution as they did in July 2011?**

A: No. In 2011, the state passed legislation to provide a maintenance-of-effort distribution to meet federal ARRA requirements. In 2012 and future years, the state will handle surpluses as it has in past years by making a deposit into the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF) These dedicated funds will be available for Public School shortfalls in future years.

**Q: Has the state selected a device for one-to-one deployment in high schools?**

A: No. The state is currently developing an RFP that will not select a specific device, but will select a managed contract service. The RFP will describe the functionality the state needs in the device, including a full-functioning keyboard, the battery life, the size, the weight, the software, and will select a contractor to provide this as well as the necessary maintenance, security and tech support. The RFP is being finalized now and expected to go out soon.

**Q: Is the state still providing funding for additional math and science teachers?**

A: Yes. JFAC provided ongoing funding of \$4,850,000 for additional math and science teachers to help Idaho school districts and charter schools meet the new high school graduation requirements.

**Q: Will lottery funds continue to be distributed as discretionary funds?**

A: Yes, these are part of a district's discretionary funds.